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AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

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Tomorrow's Tycoons

Young Entrepreneurs Shine at the Kid's Big Business Expo



Twelve-year-old Wyatt Pacheco, founder of No More Ruff, showcases his handcrafted sugar scrubs. Pacheco launched his lifestyle venture just two months prior to the expo.

Story and photos by Khushi Salgia

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Creativity, passion and an innate drive to make a difference were on full display Saturday, July 9 as dozens of young business minds gathered for the annual Kids Business Expo. From handmade accessories to eco-friendly plant propagation, the event proved that the next generation of entrepreneurs isn't waiting until adulthood to make their mark on the local economy.

Walking through the crowded aisles, it was impossible to miss the



Eleven-year-old Lolarose stands proudly behind her booth for Desert Rose Succulent. Propagating plants helps fund her home garden while earning her math and science credits through homeschooling.

sense of purpose driving these young vendors. For first-grader Gigi Kelly, business is entirely personal. Operating under the name G's Graphic Creations, Kelly launched a venture selling drawings on canvas after being gifted with a set of markers. Impacted by seeing stray and malnourished cats in her neighborhood, she decided to donate her proceeds to animal shelters.

"I wanted to get more money to help cats in need," she said.

The next booth down, the focus shifted from

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SMF Seeks Public Input to Shape Next 20 Years of Growth



The public survey is now open and takes only a few minutes to complete. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento International Airport (SMF) has launched a public survey as part of its Airport Master Plan update, inviting travelers, residents and community members to share their priorities for the airport's future.

The Airport Master Plan is a comprehensive, long-range planning document that guides development and improvements over a 20-year horizon. The plan evaluates existing facilities, forecasts future passenger and aircraft activity, identifies infrastructure needs, and outlines a recommended development strategy shaped in part by input from the public.

"This master plan is about more than buildings and runways. It is about understanding what our community needs from its airport for decades to come," said Cindy Nichol, director of airports for Sacramento County. "We are asking the people who fly through SMF and live in this region to tell us what matters most to them."

The public survey is now open and takes only a few minutes to complete. Residents and travelers are encouraged to share feedback on topics including flight options, terminal amenities, parking, and accessibility.

To take the survey, visit: www.surveymonkey.com/r/K78P5PJ

Public participation is a key component of the master plan. Input gathered through the survey and community outreach will help inform facility recommendations, capital improvement priorities and the airport's long-term development strategy.

The survey will remain open through Aug. 14. For more information about the SMF Airport Master Plan, visit the Department of Airports website at sacramento.aero/about/planning_design. ★



Rich Desmond 'Lucky to be Alive'

Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Supervisor Rich Desmond planned to celebrate his favorite American holiday by riding in Carmichael's July 4 parade, attending civic events and barbecuing with his family.

Instead, the District 3 leader was in the ICU with broken bones, a punctured lung and in a fight for his life.

On July 3, he and his older brother Pete set out on dual-sport motorcycles for a morning spin to Rancho Murieta.

"We've been on motorcycles practically all our lives," said Desmond (56). "We were on the Jackson Highway, near Sloughhouse. It was about 9 a.m. and I recall thinking how great a cup of coffee would be.



Pictured in Carmichael with wife Lisa, District 3 Supervisor Rich Desmond is splinted, bandaged and recovering after a serious motorcycle accident.

"That's all I remember. I came to, lying on the road with my brother holding my hand. Pete thought I was dead. I couldn't breathe; I couldn't move. I was in tremendous pain.

When CHP officers got there, they said I was lucky to be alive."

He and his bike were smashed from behind by a pickup truck, whose driver admitted to falling asleep

at the wheel. Former CHP officer Desmond was propelled onto the truck hood; his 6 ft 3 ins body then catapulted to the tarmac.

Though a full-head

Continued on page 2

Tomorrow's Tycoons

Continued from page 1

animal rescue to intricate craftsmanship. Nine-year-olds Tobin Bayles and Giuliana Christi proudly displayed a colorful array of handmade Rainbow Loom bracelets under their company Charming Looms. Rainbow Loom is a craft kit that allows you to weave small rubber bands to create accessories. For Bayles and Christi, the business started organically out of a hobby.

“We were making bracelets and we’re on the same soccer team, so we decided to make it together,” said Bayles.

They started three months ago and their favorite design to make is the fishtail pattern. In addition to making the jewelry, they also offer lessons where they teach kids how to make their own Rainbow Loom jewelry. With the lessons, the kids also get a free kit to take home and practice with.

In addition to child entrepreneurs, there were also teenagers who showed up to present their work. Seventeen-year-old Lauren Woolsey makes costume jewelry under her business Wrapped Up In Beads. Woolsey got into making costume jewelry, but the materials to make them can only be ordered in bulk which left her with a lot of extra jewelry parts.

“I gotta get rid of this stuff somehow,” she said.

Her most popular items are spike crowns, resembling the kind that are often worn in fantasy movies or cosplay.

“My jewelry has a magical, fairy princess vibe,” she said.

The expo also highlighted a strong commitment to green living and natural science. An eleven-year-old named Lolarose started a business called Desert Rose Succulent where she sells potted plants. She was gifted plant cuttings five years ago and is still propagating the remnants to this day. All the proceeds go towards



First-grader Gigi Kelly uses her love for art to create custom canvas drawings, donating a portion of her proceeds to local animal shelters to help neighborhood cats.



From left to right, siblings Leonardo (11), Santiago (9) and Isabella (5) Wakamiya present their collaborative family venture, Art Lite, showcasing an array of custom-made greeting cards, ceramic tiles and paintings at the Kid's Big Business Expo.

funding her home garden where she grows plants such as chamomile tea, green beans and cucumbers. Because she is homeschooled, her business experience also translates to math and science credits towards

her classes as it allows her to learn skills relating to plant science as well as accounting.

“I love learning about plants and being around nature,” she said.

Innovation in the lifestyle sector

his favorite being piña colada.

“I love the scent and the way it makes my skin feel,” he said.

There was also a family business, with three siblings working together to make the vision come to life. Eleven-year-old Leonardo, nine-year-old Santiago and five-year old Isabella of the Wakamiya family, have a business called Art Lite. They make various kinds of artwork such as greeting cards, ceramic tiles and posters with mediums such as marker, watercolor and acrylic paint. As they’ve gotten experienced with it, they only need 30 minutes to complete a work of art. They were inspired by their mom being an artist.

“Our mom wanted us to paint,” Santiago said.

Leonardo enjoys painting nature scenery as well as video game characters, Santiago likes to make the tile coasters and Isabella’s favorite painting is one she made of a bunny.

As the expo came to a close, the



Seventeen-year-old Lauren Woolsey displays her costume jewelry business, Wrapped Up In Beads, which features a magical, fantasy-inspired collection of handmade hair combs and pendant necklaces.

was another major draw. Twelve-year-old Wyatt Pacheco, founder of No More Ruff, launched his business just two months ago. He taught himself how to make sugar scrubs and he sells them in various scents,

takeaway was that these young participants are gaining much more than basic financial literacy. They are developing empathy, environmental awareness and the confidence to turn their ideas into reality. ★

Rich Desmond ‘Lucky to be Alive’



Happier days. On safer wheels, Rich Desmond hijacks a friend's bicycle for a July 4 pre-parade spin at the Milagro Centre in 2024.

Continued from page 1

helmet and protective clothing probably saved his life, he sustained five broken ribs, broken clavicle and scapula bones, a punctured lung and head-to toe bruises.

First at South Sacramento Kaiser ICU, and later transferred to the Sutter Roseville trauma unit, Desmond’s next six days were the most painful of his life. “My left lung was partially collapsed,” he explained. “The doctors said my general fitness helped me fight back.

“I’m a spiritual person; I drew much strength from my faith. That, and the prayers of many others, got me through.”

He was comforted in hospital by family (he and wife Lisa have five children), and visits from friends and County staffers.

“They were all very worried,” he recalled. “I was, too. I worried about being able to do my job. This happened during the Board of Supervisors' summer break, so fortunately, there were no daily board meetings to attend. But there’s never a vacation from public service.”

“After a few days, I was able to direct my staff on pressing matters, to the best of my ability.”

The supervisor expressed gratitude to physicians and nurses at the two trauma centers that treated him. “Without

knowing who I was,” he reflected, “they were all wonderful to me.”

Messages from staff, constituents, Sheriff and District Attorney’s offices came thick and fast. Second District Supervisor Patrick Kennedy showed up at the Desmond home with a Sunday dinner for the family. “Support like this has been a tonic in my recovery,” the patient said.

Discharged last week, Desmond was still hurting but grateful to be in the Carmichael home where three generations of his family have lived.

The change of pace was hobbling. “At times, I feel I’m going stir-crazy,” grimaced the workaholic. “But, when you feel lucky to be alive, you don’t sweat the small stuff. You also wonder if a politician’s commitment to community comes at too great a sacrifice to family life. You realize that time is precious and life is finite. You have a lot to think about.

I’ve decided I won’t ride a motorcycle again.”

The two-term legislator will likely not be seen around District 3 or at public meetings for months. “But despite my physical limitations, I’m still a fierce advocate for my constituents,” pledged Desmond. “I’m still here, and I’m working for them.” ★

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Court Injunction Pauses New Gaming Regulations

By Thomas J. Sullivan

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - California cardrooms including Stones Casino in Citrus Heights can continue to legally offer blackjack-style games after a San Francisco Superior Court judge on Thursday, May 21, blocked the enforcement of new state regulations which would have effectively banned them.

Superior Court Judge Richard Darwin issued a preliminary injunction pausing the regulations while a legal challenge from the California Gaming Association (CGA) will continue to proceed through the courts.

Darwin found that Bonta’s Bureau of Gambling Control likely exceeded its legal authority when it adopted sweeping regulations targeting blackjack-style games long operated by California cardrooms.

The decision marks a significant victory for California’s cardroom industry and for cities heavily dependent on gambling tax revenue, including Citrus Heights, Commerce, Hawaiian Gardens and Bell Gardens.

The court’s recent ruling also strengthens the cardrooms’ argument that the Bureau of Gaming Control likely overstepped its authority by effectively rewriting California gaming policy without legislative approval.

The CGA, with support from the California Cardroom Alliance (CCA) and the Communities for California Cardrooms (CCC), had filed two lawsuits in San Francisco Superior Court challenging new regulations issued by the California Department of Justice’s Bureau of Gambling Control, which would eliminate blackjack-style games and significantly restrict player-dealer games that have been legally operated in California cardrooms for decades.

The state Bureau of Gambling Control had ordered card rooms to explain by May 31 how they would comply with new regulations limiting what games could be played.

Citrus Heights has been home to cardrooms since at least the 1950s, and today, Stones Gambling Hall is one of the premier Sacramento-area casinos and gambling halls.

The Stones Gambling Hall



Citrus Heights has been home to cardrooms since at least the 1950s, and today, Stones Gambling Hall is one of the premier Sacramento-area casinos and gambling halls. Photo designed by Magnific

opened in 2014 after its ownership group invested more than \$30 million to transform a largely vacant retail center along Antelope Road into a full-scale, 27,000-square-foot gaming and entertainment venue, operating under one of California’s most tightly regulated gaming models.

Stones employs roughly 300 workers and operates 17 tables, including seven that offer blackjack-style games, according to the company.

Those games are not house-banked. Instead, one player at a time takes on the “player-dealer” role, wagering against others at the table.

Licensed third-party proposition player services — independent companies that supply players to take on the player-dealer role and keep games running — help ensure continuity, with all activity regulated and approved by the state, Stones general counsel Heather Guarena said in a recent interview with the Sacramento Bee.

“The City didn’t take an official position relative to the litigation,” said Marisa Brown, Citrus Heights city communications officer.

City Manager Ashley Feeney provided a legal declaration along with other cities in support of the Petitioner’s motion for a preliminary injunction seeking a stay of the California Bureau of Gaming Control’s (“Bureau”) regulations concerning player dealer games and

blackjack-style games.

“The city of Citrus Heights is especially proud of its strong network of locally owned businesses that create jobs, support community events, and gives the city its unique character,” he stated in his declaration.

“Stones generates positive tax revenues which add to the total revenue in our city’s general fund, and (these funds) are used to provide our residents with essential services, such as important public infrastructure and public safety.”

“Patrons who visit Stones support nearby restaurants, retail stores, and service providers before and after their visits, generating additional customer traffic and revenue for local establishments,” Feeney said.

“Stones also maintains direct business relationships with local vendors, contractors, and service companies, further strengthening the local economy and helping small businesses in Citrus Heights grow and thrive.”

This contributes to the safety and security of the surrounding community.

“Through its partnership with the Citrus Heights Police Department, Stones helps fund the presence of off-duty police officers on-site, which enhances public safety both at the establishment and in the surrounding area,” Feeney said.

“To the extent that the Regulations would reduce Stones’s revenues and require

layoffs, the Regulations would create immediate and severe hardship for our residents who currently work at Stones. That type of sudden unemployment would also place a significant strain on (city) social services,” Feeney said, concluding his declaration.

In February 2026, two sets of California Department of Justice (DOJ) regulations governing cardrooms, one concerning Rotation of the Player-Dealer Position and the other concerning Blackjack-Style games, were approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL).

These state regulations were then to take effect on April 1, 2026, but as specified in the regulations, the deadline for cardrooms to submit plans for compliance with the regulations to DOJ was on May 31.

The two rulemaking proceedings, one concerning the rotation of the player-dealer position in California gambling establishments, and the other concerning blackjack-style games, are major regulations that share the same Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment (SRIA).

Under one of the two new rules, cardrooms could not offer blackjack, the world’s most popular casino card game. Players would no longer “bust” by exceeding 21 points, and cardrooms may not use the name “blackjack” or include the number 21.

In all, there are 88 licensed card rooms in California, the

California Cardroom Alliance said. They offer more than 1,900 tables for various games and employ more than 23,000 people.

Cardrooms argued throughout the legal battle that Bonta’s office was attempting to effectively outlaw games that had long been permitted through prior state approvals and regulatory practices.

The recent case has become one of the most politically explosive gambling disputes in California, pitting wealthy tribal gaming interests against cardrooms, labor unions and local governments dependent on casino tax revenue.

According to a news release from the California Gaming Association (CGA), Superior Court judge Richard Darwin found “clear and convincing evidence” that enforcing the regulations would irreparably harm cardrooms and their communities, CGA said.

Kyle Kirkland, owner of Club One Casino in Fresno and president of the CGA, said the court’s ruling validates the group’s contention that the bureau exceeded its authority by trying to rewrite the state’s gaming laws.

He said the regulations were driven by pressure from “powerful tribal gaming interests” that have long sought to eliminate competition from California cardrooms.

“Cardrooms have lawfully operated the games targeted by these regulations for decades. Our games support thousands of middle-class jobs and generate critical revenue for communities across California. Instead of protecting those communities, Attorney General Bonta chose to advance regulations that threaten local economies, public safety funding, and the livelihoods of thousands of Californians,” Kirkland said.

“Today’s ruling validates what we have said all along: Attorney General Bonta and the Bureau of Gambling Control exceeded their authority by attempting to rewrite California gaming law,” said California Gaming Association President Kyle Kirkland.

“These regulations were driven by pressure from powerful tribal gaming interests that have long sought to eliminate lawful competition from California’s cardrooms,” Kirkland said. ★

Sacramento Suburban Water District Opens Vacant Buildings for Rare Firefighter Training Before Demolition

Sacramento Suburban Water District News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Before demolishing two vacant District-owned buildings, Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) partnered with the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (Metro Fire) to transform the site into a unique hands-on training environment for firefighters.

The buildings provided Metro Fire crews with the opportunity to practice critical emergency response skills in actual structures. Over multiple training sessions, firefighters conducted search-and-rescue operations in smoke-filled conditions, practiced forcible entry through security bars, performed rooftop ventilation cuts, established water supplies from nearby fire hydrants and simulated fire suppression under realistic conditions.

Metro Fire first approached SSWD in March, seeking permission to use the boarded-up site for non-destructive structure-fire drills. SSWD agreed and coordinated site access, hydrant availability, security and staff support. Metro Fire conducted an initial multi-company drill in April. Both agencies then began planning more advanced, destructive training once asbestos abatement was complete and the buildings were cleared for use.

“Our partnership with Metro Fire is one of our



Metro Fire’s partnership with SSWD is one of the most critical relationships, working together to protect the community. Photo courtesy of Mer Carty/Sacramento Suburban Water District

critical relationships,” said SSWD General Manager Dan York. “SSWD works with Metro Fire to maintain and provide water service to over 6,500 fire hydrants throughout our district. Being able to utilize these buildings to help in their training is another way we are working together to protect our community.”

By making the property available to Metro Fire, SSWD helped firefighters gain experience in real-world incidents and put a public asset to productive community use.

“Training in acquired



structures gives our firefighters the opportunity to practice in conditions that closely resemble actual emergencies,” said Metro Fire Public Information Officer Captain Mark Nunez. “Every realistic training opportunity helps crews sharpen the skills they’ll rely on when someone calls 911.”

Fire crews practiced

Left: Fire crews practiced search-and-rescue operations in smoke-filled conditions, forcible entry through security bars, roof operations, including vertical ventilation cuts, door breaches and extinguishing fires under simulated fire conditions. Photo courtesy of Mer Carty/Sacramento Suburban Water District

search-and-rescue operations in smoke-filled conditions, forcible entry through security bars, roof operations, including vertical ventilation cuts, door breaches and extinguishing fires under simulated fire conditions. The training provided fire crews with a rare opportunity to practice these realistic skills and techniques under conditions similar to those when a building is on fire.

SSWD’s partnership with Metro Fire demonstrates how local public agencies work closely to strengthen emergency preparedness and protect the communities they serve, and how even an old, used asset can be put to productive use before demolition. ★



By making the property available to Metro Fire, SSWD helped firefighters gain experience in real-world incidents and put a public asset to productive community use. Photo courtesy of Mer Carty/Sacramento Suburban Water District



The California Conservation Corps at 50: Fulfilling Its Promise

By Senator Roger Niello

As the Vice Chair of the State Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, I have seen my share of well-intentioned programs that simply didn't work as advertised. But one program, inaugurated 50 years ago this July, stands out as a shining example of a government effort that has fulfilled its promise – the California Conservation Corps (CCC).

In fact, the CCC has exceeded expectations. It is a dramatically successful workforce development program that has transformed lives by giving young adults the skills, training, and opportunity to protect and enhance California's environment. The CCC is open to all Californians aged 18-25, with veterans eligible up to 29 years old. Most corpsmembers serve one year, hail from urban areas, and have little or no work experience. Many have faced significant hurdles and challenges.

From floods and wildfires to earthquakes, oil spills, and pest infestations, Corpsmembers are eager and prepared to help Californians when they need it the most. In fact, since 1976, corpsmembers have put in more than 14 million hours responding to natural disasters on emergency assignments.

Most recently, hundreds of corpsmembers were dispatched to Los Angeles County during last year's devastating wildfires to support right alongside CAL FIRE firefighters, provide base camp support, and protect communities from post-fire flooding, landslides, and toxic material contamination. In 2017, when the Oroville Dam spillway failure prompted the evacuation of nearly 200,000 people downstream, Corpsmembers helped set up an American Red Cross shelter for evacuees. And in 2020, the CCC helped operate a food distribution service during the COVID pandemic.

When Corpsmembers aren't responding to emergencies, they are enhancing California's natural spaces by building and maintaining

trails and bridges, working on energy projects, planting trees, improving streams and fish habitat, and improving park and recreation areas. Their footprints are everywhere – from San Diego all the way up to Fortuna on the north coast. On the outskirts of my Senate district, the CCC has a non-residential facility adjacent to the American River in Sacramento, which offers training opportunities in energy and other natural resources work. In addition, the Placer Center in Auburn operates wildland firefighting hand crews that are trained to cut fire line, lay hose, create fuel breaks, and mop up wildland fires.

Andres Orozco, a Placer Center alum, used his new skills to land a job as a firefighter for CAL FIRE. "I face almost the same challenges here every day that I did in the CCC," he says. "If you come for opportunities and work, you will 100 percent find it." Others might parlay their CCC education to find jobs with the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, or other nonprofit or private sector environmental organizations. If Corpsmembers enter the CCC without a high school diploma, the CCC helps them earn one within the program.

The CCC's nonprofit partner, the California Conservation Corps Foundation, enhances corpsmembers' education, training, leadership development, personal growth, and career opportunities through philanthropy. Whether it's providing scholarships, health resources, internship placements, or simply a plane ticket home to attend a mother's funeral, the Foundation has been supporting corpsmembers for most of the past half-century.

Recently, I was proud to support a Senate Resolution recognizing the CCC's 50th anniversary and its long-standing impact and commitment to California's youth, stewardship of public lands, and dedication to improving our communities. It's a shining example of how a government program can work for all of us. ★

Away for the Day

Updated mobile device policy for elementary, K-8 and middle schools

San Juan Unified School District News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - To support student learning and well-being, the San Juan Unified Board of Education recently approved revisions to the district's mobile device policy that will require personal mobile devices to be restricted for the entire school day at elementary, K-8 and middle schools beginning in the 2026-27 school year.

The district first adopted a mobile device policy in 2025 to comply with California Assembly Bill 3216, which requires school districts to limit student use of smartphones during the school day. The policy was fully implemented in January, and restricted mobile device use during instructional time.

Throughout the year, the district gathered feedback from students, families and staff to better understand how the policy was working. Survey results showed growing support for mobile device restrictions, with most students and families reporting they were still able to communicate about

important matters during the school day despite the limitations on device use.

Following a board request to explore additional restrictions, survey results indicated strong support for restricting mobile devices throughout the entire school day at elementary, K-8 and middle schools.

By keeping devices put away during the school day, schools can help create learning environments where students are more focused, engaged and connected with their peers. Research and local feedback suggest that limiting access to phones during the school day can reduce distractions, support student well-being and encourage face-to-face interactions.

Students may still bring personal mobile devices to school; however, devices must remain stored and inaccessible throughout the school day in accordance with school procedures.

Families can continue to communicate with students when needed through the school office. Likewise, students will have access to school staff and office resources if they need to contact a parent or guardian during the day. ★

Making Affordability Work: How Builder Incentives Help Buyers Get into New Homes



Financing incentives have become an effective affordability tool. They help buyers qualify for a loan, make monthly budgeting easier and preserve the home's long-term value. Photo courtesy of Magnific

By President of the North State Building Industry Association, Tim Murphy

Ask prospective homebuyers about the biggest challenge they face today, and you'll probably hear the same answer: affordability.

Higher mortgage interest rates have certainly made buying a home more expensive, but they are only part of the equation. The cost of land, labor and building materials has increased significantly in recent years. Government fees and regulatory costs now average more than \$100,000 on every new home built in the Sacramento region. Together, those factors have pushed the price of housing beyond the reach of many families.

Homebuilders can't control most of those costs. They can't set interest rates, reduce permit fees or eliminate regulations that add thousands of dollars to every home.

What they can do is find creative ways to help buyers overcome today's affordability challenges. And that's exactly what many builders are doing.

The most visible example is mortgage rate buydowns. Working with preferred leaders, builders often subsidize interest rates, allowing qualified buyers to finance a home at rates well below current market levels. Depending on the community and the promotion, those lower rates may apply during the first year or two of the loan or even for its full term.

At first glance, some buyers might wonder why builders don't simply lower the home's price instead.

The answer is surprisingly simple: lowering the monthly payment usually provides much more value.

Consider a buyer financing a \$500,000 mortgage. A two-percentage-point reduction in the interest rate can lower the monthly payment by hundreds of dollars. Over the first several years of the loan, those savings can easily exceed the benefit of a modest reduction in the purchase price.

That's why financing incentives have

become such an effective affordability tool. They help buyers qualify for a loan, make monthly budgeting easier and preserve the home's long-term value. Simply cutting the sales price has a much smaller effect on the monthly payment while also influencing future appraisals and comparable sales throughout a neighborhood.

Financing, however, is only one item in builders' affordability toolbox.

Many builders are also paying some or all of buyers' closing costs, offering credits toward upgraded flooring, countertops and appliances, including smart-home technology, or waiving lot premiums. Buyers shopping for quick move-in homes often find additional incentives as builders work to sell completed inventory and begin construction on the next phase of a community.

Taken together, these incentives can reduce both the cash needed at closing and the ongoing monthly cost of homeownership. For many buyers, that's the difference between continuing to rent and finally purchasing a home.

Of course, incentives are not a permanent solution to California's affordability challenges. While current interest rates are historically about average, affordability could be greatly enhanced by reducing the cost of producing housing in the first place. That means addressing excessive government fees, streamlining the permitting process and removing unnecessary regulatory barriers that make every new home more expensive before construction even begins.

Until those reforms occur, builder incentives are helping bridge the gap. They don't eliminate the affordability challenge, but they are making homeownership possible for many families who otherwise might believe buying a new home is out of reach.

So if you've considered buying a new home but haven't thought it was possible, take a look at some of the 200 new home communities in our region and talk to a few builders. You may find that the home of your dreams is more affordable than you think. ★

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Local Museums Offer Ways to Enrich the Lazy Days of Summer with Plenty of Must-See and Must-Do Experiences

Sacramento Area Museums News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Greater Sacramento region is rich with museums and popular destinations that offer plenty of must-see and must-do experiences to explore before summertime makes way for a busy fall season. The community is encouraged to show support for local museums by making plans to visit favorite locations (or discovering new ones).

The California Automobile Museum is revving up summertime evenings by participating in the monthly Third Thursday program happening throughout the Old Sacramento Waterfront. Guests will get an exclusive chance to explore the “Route 66: California Dreamin” exhibit by the light of the neon moon, celebrating the Mother Road through the lens of 100 years of history, plus admissions are half-off. In addition, there will be special activities for kids and adults 21 plus can tap into an exclusive drink selection for sale (with one free drink ticket per entry.) For more details, visit www.calautomuseum.org/thirdthursdays.

Make plans to experience “Reflecting on the Land,” a powerful new exhibit making its debut Aug. 21 at the California Museum. Highlighting the voices, knowledge and visions of California's Indigenous peoples, the exhibit will challenge visitors to reckon with the stories that have shaped our understanding of this land, and those that have been left out. From the landscapes of 250 years ago to hard-won victories like the restoration of the Klamath River, the exhibit traces the living legacy of more than 200 tribes across the state and looks ahead to radical, hopeful visions of what sovereignty and self-determination can look like on this land. Thought-provoking, timely and deeply rooted in community, this is an exhibit for anyone ready to engage with California's past, present and future on its own terms. “Reflecting on the Land”



An incredible “Play Ball! Sacramento in the National Pastime” exhibit is on display now at the Sacramento History Museum and is filled with historical baseball uniforms, bats, balls and gloves from different time periods and more! Photo courtesy of the Sacramento History Museum

was developed by Exhibit Envoy in partnership with California Humanities, and tours through Exhibit Envoy thanks to generous funding from the 11th Hour Project, By the People: Conversations Beyond 250 and the Weingart Foundation. Additional details will be posted Aug. 6 at www.californiamuseum.org/exhibitions/temporary/

The California State Railroad Museum & Foundation is fun for all ages and is a great – and fully air-conditioned – place to see an impressive collection of rail equipment, historic locomotives, compelling exhibits, toy trains and more. Plus, a tried-and-true summertime favorite experience is a weekend excursion train ride pulled by an authentic, historic locomotive – either Granite Rock 10 steam locomotive or a historic diesel engine (motive power subject to change without notice.) The memorable experience offers guests the chance to enjoy train travel from an earlier era. For more details about the Museum Mixer, weekend excursion train rides and visiting the museum, visit www.californiarailroad.museum.

At the Crocker Art Museum the community is encouraged to experience the final Summer Family Friday of the season on Aug. 7 from 10:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. This fun-filled morning includes an art and performance extravaganza geared for kids ages 3-12, and the adults who tag along with them. Activities include hands-on art making, sensory activities and special shows from local musicians and a performing arts group. More details are available at www.crockerart.org/events/4722/summer-family-friday-4722. Plus, iconic rom coms will be screened in the Crocker's outdoor courtyard against the Teel Family Pavilion's iconic architecture on Aug. 20; closing the summer series are “Dirty Dancing” and “Clueless.” For more, visit www.crockerart.org/events/series/movies-off-the-wall.

Get ready to savor a lively night at Fairytale Town during a special, end-of-summer Tales and Ales Brewfest on Aug. 22. Local craft breweries from throughout Sacramento

and Northern California will be in the park pouring unlimited tastes while live musicians perform on the Mother Goose Stage. Plus, children will enjoy complimentary root beer floats and hands-on activities in Mr. McGregor’s Garden. Local food trucks will be on-site with food and beverages available for sale and there will be a raffle with exciting prizes. Tales & Ales is an all-ages fundraiser with proceeds supporting Fairytale Town’s education programs and park improvements. For more information visit www.fairytaletown.org/calendar/tales-ales-brewfest-2/

The SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity offers an opportunity to experience favorite musical artists like never before. The UC Davis Multiverse Theater at MOSAC is thrilled to present a music laser series to the planetarium – including a Bad Bunny Laser Concert on August 7-8. The immersive music experience, paired with spectacular full-dome lasers, is the best way to listen to favorite artists outside of a live performance. With

a robust library of classic rock, pop music and family-friendly favorites playing over our 25,000-watt Dolby 5.1 surround sound system, the laser shows provide a whole new music experience. Make plans to visit and explore the full schedule of events at www.visitmosac.org.

Always free and open weekdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Museum of Medical History is also open on Second Saturdays (for the same time hours), monthly through September. Guests will journey through time and learn about medical treatment during California's Gold Rush, the flu pandemic of 1918, Prohibition-era medicine, Polio and its groundbreaking vaccine, modern advances in cardiology, radiology, surgery and so much more. Reservations are not required, and physician docents will be onsite giving tours and interpretation of the hundreds of artifacts in the Museum's collection. For more information visit www.museumofmedicalhistory.org.

Baseball and summertime go hand-in-glove especially at the Sacramento History Museum. An incredible “Play Ball! Sacramento in the National Pastime” exhibit is on display now and filled with historical baseball uniforms, bats, balls and gloves from different time periods, along with programs, tickets, awards and trophies, an Edmonds field base, home plate and ticket box, along with scrapbooks, news articles, photos and more. “Play Ball!” tells the fascinating and fun story of Sacramento’s 175-year baseball history, stretching from the early days of the Gold Rush to the latest inning at Sutter Health Park just across the Sacramento River. For more details about the exhibit and Baseball Talk activation, visit <https://sachistorymuseum.org/>

For more information about upcoming activities offered by Sacramento area museums, like them on Facebook, follow on Instagram @SacMuseums or visit www.SacMuseums.org. ★

EMD and Food Safety Take Center Stage at State Fair



Food safety inspections help reduce the risk of foodborne illness by ensuring vendors follow safe food handling practices. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) is conducting food safety inspections throughout the California State Fair to help ensure the fair's more than 150 food vendors are serving food safely.

From corn dogs and funnel cakes to barbecue, fresh lemonade and specialty desserts, every temporary food facility at the fair must meet the same food safety standards as restaurants operating year-round in Sacramento County.

“Fairgoers should be able to enjoy their favorite foods with confidence,” said Rolando Villareal, Environmental Health Division Chief. “Our inspectors work closely with vendors before and throughout the fair to verify safe food handling practices, proper cooking and holding temperatures and compliance with California's food safety regulations.”

Wondering how Sacramento County keeps food served at the California State Fair safe? Inspectors verify that vendors are keeping hot foods hot and cold foods cold, preparing food safely and in compliance with California Retail Food Code,

washing hands properly, using food from approved sources and maintaining safe water supplies and proper wastewater disposal.

Environmental health inspectors conduct routine and unannounced inspections throughout the California State Fair. They also investigate food-related complaints and provide education to vendors to help maintain safe food handling practices.

EMD inspectors work directly with vendors to correct violations. Depending on the severity of the issue, inspectors may require immediate corrective action or temporarily suspend food service

until the violation is resolved to protect public health.

Food safety inspections help reduce the risk of foodborne illness by ensuring vendors follow safe food handling practices. Regular inspections help protect the hundreds of thousands of visitors who attend the California State Fair each year.

The 2026 California State Fair opened July 17 and runs through Aug. 2 at Cal Expo. EMD inspectors will remain on-site throughout the event to help protect public health and ensure food vendors continue meeting California food safety standards. ★

City of Sacramento Police Department News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Tuesday, July 14, just before 12:30 a.m., Sacramento Police Department officers responded to reports of an assault with a weapon in the 3500 block of 5th Avenue.

Responding officers located an adult male victim with at least one stab wound. Despite lifesaving measures, the victim was pronounced deceased on scene. An adult male suspect was detained on scene.

Due to the circumstances, Homicide Detectives and Crime Scene Investigators responded to take over the investigation. They processed the scene, collected evidence and interviewed witnesses. The circumstances of the incident remain under investigation.

The suspect, 21-year-old Maximus Morgan of Sacramento, was arrested and booked into the Sacramento County Main Jail on homicide related charges.

The Sacramento County Coroner’s Office will

release the identity of the deceased after next-of-kin have been notified.

The Sacramento Police Department encourages any witnesses with information regarding this investigation to contact the dispatch center at 916-808-5471 or Sacramento Valley Crime Stoppers at 916-443-HELP (4357).

Callers can remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward up to \$1,000. Anonymous tips can also be submitted using the free “P3 Tips” smartphone app. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

A Stellar Summer League

By V.G. Harris

Well, Kings fans, the 2026 NBA summer league is officially over, and the No. 1 draft choice of the Golden State Warriors, Yaxel Lendeborg, shined as he led the Warriors to the 2026 championship over the Memphis Grizzlies.

Lendeborg was only the second player to ever play in an NCAA championship and an NBA summer league championship in the same year. The other player? None other than Davion Mitchell in 2021.

Still a sore spot with me, trading Davion away for basically nothing will go down as one of the dumbest moves the Sacramento Kings have ever made.

But on to the more positive parts of this year’s summer league.

The Sacramento Kings got what they were hoping for and so did the Kings faithful. Coming out of the gate strong in the friendly confines of Golden One Arena, Sacramento treated their fans to back-to-back victories and showcased their No. 1 draft choice Daius Acuff jr.

Darius did not disappoint, averaging 19 points and 4.6 assists throughout, and although his field goal percentage of 35% was less than desirable, Darius comported himself admirably, and considering the hype and his age, I give Darius a B++ for his summer league effort.

At only 19 years of age, Darius showed up and gave the Sacramento fans plenty to cheer for, and without a doubt Golden One will be filled to the brim with the start of the preseason to see what this young baller can bring to this young team.

Not to be overlooked are three players that stood out and surprised many fans. Drafted late in the first round, Emanuel Sharp showed Kings fans why GM Scott Perry traded down to snatch this young guard who shined in every aspect on both ends of the floor.

Sharp scored 15.7 points per contest, boasting 2.6 steals and three rebounds, while looking more like an NBA veteran than the rookie he is. Look for Sharp to make a significant contribution to the full squad in the upcoming season.

Likewise, newcomer Jonathan Mogbo made a splash as he seemed to be all over the court and gave the Kings a much-needed defensive

effort in the paint. At six-foot-nine and 225 pounds, Mogbo is a great complement to crowd favorite Dylan Cardwell, and suddenly an area of great concern appears to be getting noticeably better.

The Kings are looking balanced for the first time in memory, as their once weak backcourt is showing up and giving fans a real reason for optimism.

One player that every Kings fan should be watching with real excitement is rookie Marquel Sutton who at six-foot-nine and 225 pounds came out of nowhere to literally steal the show. Marquel showed an aptitude for not only rebounding and low post scoring but had no problems hoisting the threes with regularity.

Will Dylan take a big step forward this year and not only help Domantas Sabonis on the boards but add to the scoring column as well?

Dylan has had his troubles scoring down low and hasn’t much of a midrange game, but can he improve in this area and learn to shoot free throws? He needs to, and as much as he represents a crowd favorite, he has the ability to energize the team as well with his tenacious defense and crowd-pleasing enthusiasm.

Fans buy tickets to see players like Cardwell perform, but the name of the game is “getting better.”

The same is true for Keegan Murray who is about to embark on his fifth NBA season, and after a tepid season last year when he was rarely on the court due to injuries, Keegan needs to find his stroke and become the player the Kings have always believed he can be.

Everyone is rooting for Keegan, but 2026-27 becomes a critical time for Keegan to demonstrate why he was a first round draft pick, and another season like the last one will likely end his time in Sacramento.

Have heart Kings fans and get ready to do some significant hand clapping because there is reason to celebrate and we’re just getting started.

What will a healthy Sacramento Kings team look like and can some of the young veterans up their game. That’s why we buy tickets, and although the pundits are already predicting a less than stellar year for Sacramento, I remain the eternal optimist.

All the best! ★

Does Crowning California’s Governor the Education Czar Mean Academic Results Will Improve?



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

In late June, after only a few minutes of discussion, both houses of the Legislature completely overhauled how California manages the nation’s largest public school system and its nearly 6 million students.

The votes for Assembly Bill 181 — 21-4 in the Senate and 52-4 in the Assembly — reflected a bipartisan consensus, rare for major issues, that the system has been failing California’s children. The votes were based on an implicit, perhaps even desperate, hope that streamlining administration might raise the state’s mediocre levels of academic achievement.

The measure demotes the elected state superintendent of schools from the head of the state Department of Education to a member of the state school board and replaces the superintendent with an “education commissioner” appointed by the governor.

Assemblywoman Darshana Patel, a San Diego Democrat, research scientist and local school board member, cogently expressed that hope during the Assembly’s brief floor debate.

“We can’t keep doing the same thing and expect different outcomes for our students, our schools and our communities. They are the ones who are the real victims of this misalignment of our systems and structures,” she said,

adding, “The proposal before you today would promote a more coherent policy making. The change will allow policy makers and the public to hold the governor accountable for educational outcomes.”

The last sentence of her remarks is the key element. While the governor has always been an important member of California’s complex education leadership structure, the multitude of other participants has made it easy to pass the buck when academic test results and other measures expose academic shortcomings.

Suddenly undoing many decades of managerial status quo, as first proposed in Gov. Gavin Newsom’s state of the state address last January, is a remarkable feat unto itself. Doing so over the opposition of the California Teachers Association elevates it to a minor political miracle.

“The proposal would divert attention away from the real needs of students and schools by introducing a significant governance change that is both unnecessary and counterproductive,” the powerful union wrote in a statement before AB 181’s approval. “This proposal does nothing to improve student outcomes or strengthen public education.”

For decades, the teachers association and other education unions have easily gotten their favored candidates for state superintendent elected. And those chosen officials have faithfully echoed the unions’ position that the key to increasing outcomes is allocating more money.

School funding has increased sharply since the turn of the century, but test scores have not followed suit. Some categories, such as elementary school reading levels, remain embarrassingly low.

The first hint that change was on the table came late last year, when Policy Analysis for California Education, a consortium of education faculty at five major universities, issued a lengthy critique of the current system. The report said California’s complicated mélange of state and local authority “often results in overlapping responsibilities, fragmented authority, and challenges in ensuring streamlined decision-making.”

By design, the consortium’s recommendations closely resembled Newsom’s proposal and the final legislation.

The obvious question is if streamlining education governance and making the governor accountable, at least on paper, for academic outcomes will merely rearrange chairs on a sinking ship, or actually generate more achievement for the \$25,000-plus that the new state budget will be spending on each public school student.

California’s education establishment has been reluctant to change its mantra that more money is needed to boost results and equally reluctant to embrace improvements in instructional techniques, such as using phonics to upgrade elementary reading ability.

The onus will be on Newsom’s successor, most likely Xavier Becerra, to become the new schools sheriff in town.

Dan Walters is one of the most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state’s political, economic, social and demographic trends. ★

Social Security Matters

Can my spouse file at 63 and then get half of mine when I later claim?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: My spouse is 63 and I am 65. I am planning to take my Social Security benefits at age 70. Can my lower earning spouse take his own benefits now, and then - when I take my full benefits at age 70, can he then file for 50% of mine instead of the lower benefit he is getting because he claimed at age 63?

Signed: Higher Earning Spouse

Dear Higher Earning Spouse: Yes, your lower-earning spouse can take his benefits based on his personal lifetime earnings record at any time (i.e., age 63) and, when you later claim your own SS at 70, your spouse will be evaluated to determine whether he is eligible for a “spousal boost” based on your Social Security record. But to be sure you are clear, if you claim at age 70, your spouse will not get 50% of your age 70 benefit amount.

Spousal benefits are always determined by comparing each partners’

full retirement age (FRA) entitlement and, if your spouse’s FRA entitlement is less than half of your FRA entitlement, your spouse will get a “spousal boost” to bring his monthly SS retirement payment up to what he is entitled to as your spouse.

The amount of the “spousal boost” would be the difference between his FRA entitlement and 50% of your FRA entitlement, which would be added to his own (age 63) SS retirement amount. And that means that his total benefit amount would be less than half of your age 70 amount (less also than 50% of your FRA amount, because he claimed at age 63).

One caution for your spouse to be aware of: if he is still working and claims at age 63, he will be subject to Social Security’s Annual Earnings Test (AET), which limits how much he can earn before SS takes away some benefits. The earnings limit for 2026 is \$24,480 (changes annually) and if that is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 of benefits for every \$2 he is over the limit. FYI, Social Security will “take back” by withholding future benefit payments, so he will not get his benefits for some months if he exceeds the annual earnings limit. And if the

annual earnings limit is significantly exceeded, your spouse could even be temporarily ineligible to receive SS benefits (until he either earns less or reaches his full retirement age (the earnings limit goes away when FRA is reached)).

The only way your spouse can avoid both a reduced personal benefit and the annual earnings test limitation is to wait until his own full retirement age to claim Social Security. However, if he’s not working full time and needs the Social Security money sooner, then claiming at age 63 may be a good choice. In any case, he won’t get half of your age 70 amount.

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An early period of World War II was known as “the phony war.” What we may be witnessing now in the U.S.-Iran war is the end of a “phony peace.”

The nearly five-month-long conflict has featured a couple of sham cease-fires, each marked by supposed Iranian pledges to reopen the Strait of Hormuz that came to nothing.

With the Iranians firing on shipping in the Strait again, Trump has declared the so-called memorandum of understanding signed about a month ago to be a dead letter. After lifting sanctions on Iranian oil and ending the U.S. blockade of Iranian ports, Trump has reinstituted both. He maintains that the U.S. will control the strait and, at some point, charge a 20% fee on all shipping for our trouble (a bad idea that Trump appears already to have abandoned).

It was clear a couple of days into the war that the Strait of Hormuz had become the key strategic variable and that President Trump wouldn’t easily be able to walk away from the conflict without reopening the strait again.

The MOU was an illusory means of achieving this goal via diplomacy. The problem is that we thought -- or wanted to believe -- that the agreement said the Iranians would allow unobstruct-

Another Sham Deal with Iran Comes Undone

ed passage again, while the Iranians thought -- or wanted to believe -- that it said they would control the strait. That the MOU was subject to these starkly divergent understandings made it a memorandum of obfuscation.

The Iranians, of course, aren’t operating in good faith, but it is a point in their favor that the MOU didn’t simply say, “There shall be freedom of navigation in the strait.” Instead, it talked of how the Iranians would “make arrangements” for ensuring “the safe passage of commercial vessels, with no charge for 60 days only.” In other words, the Iranians held the whip hand in the strait and could charge a fee for transit after a two-month interval. Furthermore, Iran would conduct dialogue with Oman “to define the future administration and maritime services in the Strait of Hormuz.”

Amazingly enough, then, a war that had started with optimistic talk of toppling the Iranian regime was ending with an agreement allowing the Iranians to figure out how to run a waterway vital to the international economy that they hadn’t controlled at the outset of the conflict.

Is it any wonder that the Iranians, who must have been stunned at the success of their gambit in the strait, have been pressing their luck? It must have emboldened them even more to hear Trump say that he was so eager for the MOU be-

cause the economic costs of Iranian disruption of the strait threatened to make him a new Herbert Hoover.

Effectively turning over the control of the strait to the Iranians -- coupled with the inconclusive U.S. war against the Houthis to try to eliminate their threat to shipping in the Red Sea -- would have been a black mark on the Trump administration’s record regarding a long-standing tenet of American grand strategy.

Freedom of navigation has always been considered essential to U.S. national security and a linchpin of global commerce. Trump is right to want to take back the Strait. The question, though, is whether he will be willing to apply enough force and have the staying power to bring a battle for the strait to a successful conclusion. The domestic politics are difficult, given that the American public is not supportive of the war and has now been repeatedly told that it is about to end with a brilliant diplomatic deal.

While we have an enormous firepower advantage, the Iranians have proven that they can disrupt the Strait with threats and a few projectiles. They aren’t going to give up their strategic windfall easily, as two bogus but highly touted peace deals now demonstrate.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Aging Gracefully

Do you often think about growing older? Be honest. I think we all do at one time or another. We hope for a good run and a healthy one even with a few wrinkles and the gray showing. Let’s get some practical ideas that can keep us vibrant, joyful, and full of purpose with **Dr. Susan Smith Jones** who was on my POPPTALK Show recently. She is one of the nation’s leading holistic health and lifestyle experts. So let’s go into old age with kindness, positivity, and energized. Here are four ways to achieve that goal.

1. **MOVE EVERY DAY.** Walking, dancing, gardening, swimming, and strength exercises support the heart, brain, bones, balance, and mood. Studies show that becoming active later in life still brings meaningful benefits. The best exercise is not the trendiest one. It is the one you will actually do. Begin gently and consistently.

2. **FEED YOUR BODY AND SPIRIT.** Choose colorful whole foods, restorative sleep, prayer, meditation, and moments of quiet. Your body needs nourishment, your spirit needs stillness. Both deserve better than leftovers.

3. **CULTIVATE GRATITUDE AND CONNECTION.** Research links gratitude, strong relationships, and a sense of purpose with greater well-being. Call a friend, encourage someone, volunteer, or share your wisdom. Retirement from a job should never mean retirement from usefulness.

4. **KEEP YOUR FUNNY BONE FLEXIBLE.** Laugh kindly at misplaced glasses. Mysterious knee noises, and walking into a room and not remembering why. Humor lightens burdens and keeps small frustrations from receiving starring roles.

Dr. Jones had a great story she experienced years ago while waiting at London’s Heathrow Airport after storms disrupted flights. She watched an elegant woman in her eighties offer a seat to a frantic business man who feared missing an important meeting because of all the delays. This frantic man was in a bad way shouting and carrying on. After the lady gave him her ticket and seat on the plane, his anger vanished. The airline rewarded her with a first-class ticket, but her real reward was revealing what youthful radiance looks like: kindness, faith, generosity, and calm.

According to **Dr. Jones**, aging gracefully is not about denying birthdays, chasing youth, or declaring war on every wrinkle. It is about becoming more vibrant, grateful, useful, and fully alive with each passing year. Studies show that positive attitudes about aging are linked with longer, healthier lives. Apparently, optimism may be more valuable than anti-aging creams, and it never stains the pillowcase.

Dr Jones is an award-winning author, holistic health educator, and motivational speaker who has written many books on wellness, resilience, joy, and purposeful living. You can check out her website at www.susansmithjones.com. And you can sign up for her free monthly Healthy Living newsletter there with wonderful and inspirational information for a better life. You can also check out her books like **“A Hug in a Mug” “Uplifted”** and her new Gold-Medal-Winning **“Joy and the Butterfly”** popular with kids and adults alike. **Susan Smith Jones** stands for inspiration and resources. My take on all this is **AGING IS LOVELY!** ★

FORPD Board Approves Old Library Repairs and Annual Assessments

By Shaunna Boyd

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - At the July 15 meeting of the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District (FORPD) Board of Directors, the board considered using \$43,874 in dedication fees for the Old Library Renovation project.

The board initially approved renovations to the Old Fair Oaks Library building as part of the fiscal year 2025–26 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and carried over the funding allocation to 2026–27. The initial scope of work included a roof replacement, HVAC upgrades and minor interior renovations.

The roof repairs have already been completed, however site investigations identified pervasive mold issues and lead paint that should be remediated. The board previously mentioned the possibly of selling the property rather than putting more funding into these repairs.

The original project budget was \$191,400.00. Actual expenditures on the project currently total \$76,032. New District Administrator Aaron Robertson said by adjusting the scope of work to remove some of the interior renovations, the total expected project cost will be \$119,906.

The proposed remaining scope of work totals \$43,874, with \$8,452 for mold, \$14,519 for repairs and \$20,902 to purchase and install the HVAC.

Staff recommended transferring the total cost from the Dedication Fees Account, with has an available balance of \$380,504, so it would not impact the General Fund.

Robertson said he wouldn’t recommend selling the property at this time, because staff currently use it as a workspace and the sale would need public input because it’s a historic building in Fair Oaks. He recommended completing these remediations and looking at future options for the building during the review of the district’s Master Plan.

Director Ralph Carhart said historic buildings are “touchstones to the past,” he if they did sell, he would want to ensure it went to a public use.

Vice Chair Darren Mounts said he would like to retain the property, if possible, since it’s located in the heart of the village.

Chair Raymond James Irwin said he doesn’t think it’s fiscally prudent to put more money into the building that doesn’t currently serve a community need.

During public comment, one resident said, “Doing the renovations shows that we’re being good stewards of the assets that we have” and demonstrates transparency and integrity.

The board voted to approve the funding for the recommended repairs and discuss future uses or possible sale during the next Master Plan review.

The board held a public hearing regarding the continued assessments for fiscal year 2026-27 for the Fair Oaks Parks Maintenance and Recreation Improvement District, the Phoenix Field Landscape and Lighting Assessment District and the Gum Ranch Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District.

The Fair Oaks Parks Maintenance and Recreation Improvement District serves all residents of the district and includes all properties located within district boundaries. The assessment is \$48.04 per single family unit. ★

New Home Market Returns to Pre-Pandemic Levels

North State Building Industry Association News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - June’s new home sales totals are another indication that the new home market in the greater Sacramento region has settled back into pre-pandemic patterns, the North State Building Industry Association reported July 7.

Tim Murphy, the BIA’s president and CEO, said a look at sales during the first two quarters puts the state of the market in clearer terms.

“This year, our members sold 3,016 homes between Jan. 1 and June 30, just one sale less than in 2020,” Murphy said. “Looking at the first half of the year over the past decade, this year’s sales, and last year’s, fall squarely within the range we saw from 2017 through 2020. The pandemic years stand out as the exception, with demand significantly higher than historical norms.”

During the month, BIA members sold 356 new homes across the eight-county region, down 25% from May but up 14% from June 2025. Sales were



House market has returned to pre-pandemic levels, putting market in clearer terms. Photo designed by Magnific

also 15% below the historical June average dating back to 1997.

Murphy said several factors have contributed to the market settling into a pre-pandemic pattern. One is that state government and many private sector companies are requiring employees to be back in the office more of the time, meaning the work-from-home surge is clearly over.

In addition, interest rates have edged higher and affordability remains constrained by the high fees charged by local governments and other regulatory requirements that increase costs and slow housing production.

Still, Murphy said that builders also continue to offer significant incentives to make new homes more affordable, and buyers currently have more opportunities to purchase completed homes or homes with shorter-than-usual move-in times.

During the month, Roseville led the region with 76 sales, followed by Sacramento (61), Rancho Cordova (38), Elk Grove (29) and Lincoln (22). Natomas came in sixth with 22, followed by Plumas Lake and Galt with 16 each and El Dorado Hills and Folsom with 14 each.

Sales were reported for 203 communities in Amador, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties. ★



**Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl**

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by Dave T. Phipps



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WHY? OUR COMBINED INCOMPETENCE?

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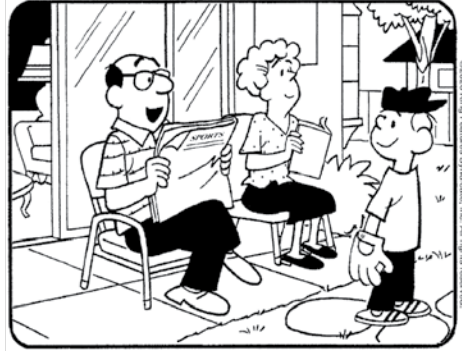
THE BOXTS

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Foot is moved. 2. Collar is missing. 3. Arm is not showing. 4. Lamp is larger. 5. Window is added to house. 6. Back of chair is smaller.

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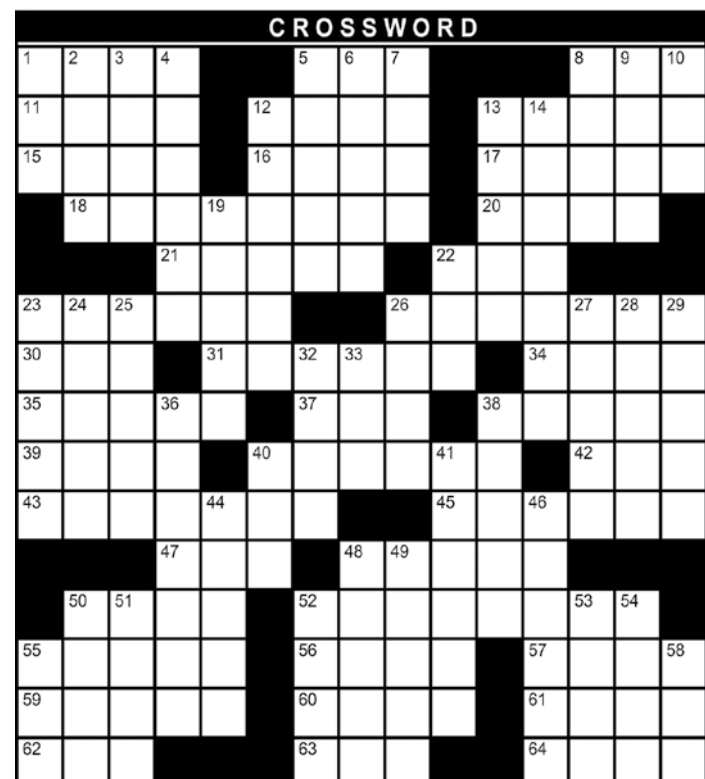


CLUES

ACROSS

5. Soapy enemy
6. Architect's software, acr.
7. Professional number cruncher, acr.
11. Through, to a poet
12. Z, NATO phonetic alphabet
13. Garden pest
15. Chinese monetary unit
16. Sportscaster Andrews
17. Certain water birds
18. *Luxury camping
20. Scratch's target
21. Same as coho
22. DNA transmitter
23. Explanation backed by evidence
26. Gottfried ____, calculus co-creator
30. R in rpm
31. Er on Periodic table
34. Bowling ball path
35. Arabic VIPs
37. .0000001 joules
38. Financial woes
39. Cecum, pl.
40. "Et tu, Brute?" speaker
42. Food morsel
43. Siren, e.g.
45. *__ camping, or camping without shelter
47. Siesta
48. "There it is," à Paris
50. Gold of frankincense or myrrh, e.g.
52. *Fire starter
55. American chameleon
56. Antioxidant-rich berry
57. New Mexico art colony
59. Nymph chaser
60. Nonclerical
61. Poet Pound
62. High school parent org.
63. Be off base
64. Ready for picking

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DOWN

21. Eye infection
22. College party chant
23. Russia's _____ Mountains
24. Western European city-state
25. Collectible in a cabinet
26. Skirt shape
27. Animal waste
28. Chocolate candy, to a Brit
29. Essence
30. Marketing creations
31. Gentle breeze
32. Raspberry drupelets
33. *Like drinking water
34. Customs and conventions
35. "Losing My Religion" band
36. *Leave no _____
37. Egyptian falcon god
38. Put out on a curb
39. Totes or tugs
40. Orient's bigwig
41. Preface, e.g.
42. Piquant
43. *_____ bag or _____ canister
44. Rage
45. *Waterproof cover (2 words)
46. Funny
47. Of low pH
48. Serve food at events
49. Restaurant staff member
50. "The _____ of Wakefield"
51. On the radio (2 words)
52. *Annoying biting fly
53. Tiny quantity
54. Leafy green
55. Like Hitler's Germany
56. *'Good Ol' Raisins and Peanuts
57. Venomous snake
58. Greek letters on campus

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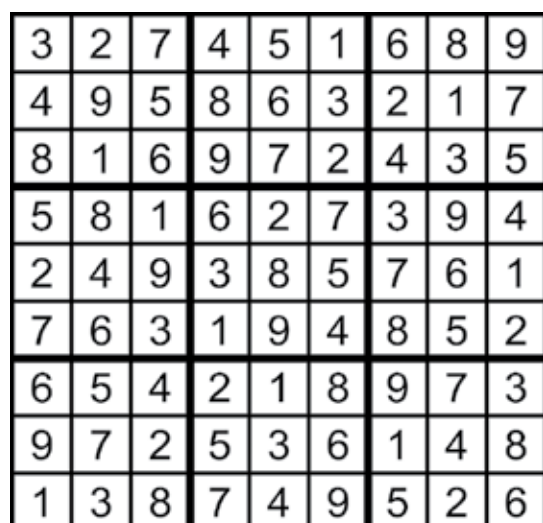
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Sarah Puddicombe Elevated to Head Rowing Coach

Sacramento State Athletics Sports News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento State Director of Athletics Mark Orr announced July 13 that Sarah Puddicombe has been elevated to head coach of the Hornets’ rowing program. She becomes the fifth head coach in the team’s history (1995-pres.).

Puddicombe assumes leadership of the program after longtime head coach Mike Connors announced his retirement in June.

A two-time first team All-American, and NCAA national champion as both a coach and student-athlete, Puddicombe has spent the past three seasons (2024-26) as assistant coach with the Hornets and also had an earlier stint as a Sacramento State assistant from 2005-07.

Puddicombe brings continuity, experience and a deep understanding of the Hornets’ culture. During her tenure at Sacramento State, she has her fingerprints all over the program, which includes coaching the novice squad, recruiting, running practices, developing race strategies and lineups, academics, travel, administrative duties and much more.

“We are thrilled to name Sarah Puddicombe as the next head coach of our rowing program,” Orr said. “She is an outstanding leader with deep ties to Sacramento State, a championship pedigree and a genuine passion for developing student-athletes. She understands the tradition that has been built here, has earned the respect of our team and the rowing community and is the right person to lead our program into its next chapter. We are excited to see her continue the program's tradition of excellence both on the water and in the classroom.”

A local product from Orangevale, CA, Puddicombe has 23 years of coaching experience. Prior to her second stint with the Hornets, she spent seven years as the head coach of Capital Crew - the Sacramento State Aquatic Center’s youth rowing program for high school students (2016-23). In addition, she had collegiate coaching stops at Cal (2008-16), UC Davis (2007-08)



Puddicombe assumes leadership of the program after longtime head coach Mike Connors announced his retirement last month. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

and Sacramento State (2005-07).

“First and foremost, I want to congratulate Mike Connors on a wonderful career and his continued dedication to this team over the past the 24 years at Sacramento State,” Puddicombe said. “Coaching has never been just a job for me - it has been my life’s passion. The opportunity to become a head coach represents the chance to bring together everything I have learned over two decades of developing student-athletes and building successful teams.”

“I am excited to build off a program defined by excellence, integrity and unity, where student-athletes are inspired to exceed expectations and leave a legacy that extends far beyond the finish line. Thank you to Mark Orr and the hiring committee for trusting me to lead this program that will compete for championships while fostering a lifelong love of the sport and the University.”

Puddicombe competed four years at UC Davis (1999-02) where she was a two-time All-American coxswain, three-time team captain and helped the Aggies to a 2002 NCAA Div. II national championship.

She would later add another national championship at Cal, where she helped coach the Bears to a 2016 title. During her time at Cal, the team also had eight consecutive top three finishes at the NCAA Championships and seven Pac-12 Conference team titles. That included a run of five straight Pac-12 titles from 2009-13.

Puddicombe was promoted to associate head coach at Cal in 2012, and was responsible for signing 67 student-athletes to National Letters of Intent from 2008-14. She coached four individual boats to top four finishes at the NCAA Championships (including a gold in 2014 and 2016) and five individual boat Pac-12 titles.

During her seven-year stint at Capital Crew, a total of 72 of her 105 seniors were recruited to row in college. In addition, she qualified boats to the US Rowing Youth National Championships every full season of her tenure, which included winning a national championship in the Junior 4+ in 2017 and the Junior pair in 2022.

Other coaching stops included serving as a volunteer coach at the Under-23 National Team Camp in 2008 and 2010. She also worked as a Jr. Pre-Elite Rowing Coach from 2004-06, and made her coaching debut with Capital Crew from 2004-05.

Puddicombe graduated in 2002 from UC Davis with a degree in wildlife, fish and conservation biology. She would later add a master’s degree in 2009 from the University of Phoenix.

Rex Connors Earns Third Straight Buck Buchanan Award Preseason Watch List

UC Davis Athletics News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - Senior defensive back Rex Connors has been named to the 2026 Buck Buchanan Award Preseason Watch List, Stats Perform announced on the morning of July 14. The Buck Buchanan Award recognizes the top defensive player in NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) football, with this year's preseason watch list highlighting many of the nation's top defensive standouts entering the 2026 season.

Connors earns preseason recognition for the third consecutive year after establishing himself as one of the premier defensive backs in the FCS.

A team captain in 2025, Connors appeared in four games before suffering a season-ending injury but still delivered standout performances. He recorded a season-high 15 tackles against Utah Tech, earning both Stats Perform FCS National Honorable Mention Defensive Player of the Week and Big Sky Defensive Player of the Week honors following the victory.

Connors also reached one of the most significant milestones in program history during the 2025 season, becoming UC Davis’ all-time leading tackler with the



Connors earns preseason recognition for the third consecutive year after establishing himself as one of the premier defensive backs in the FCS. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Athletics

313th tackle of his career against Washington.

Entering his final collegiate season, Connors returns as the leader of an experienced Aggie defense and once again stands among the top candidates for one of the FCS’s highest individual honors.

UC Davis opens the 2026 season on Aug. 29 at Portland State.

Single game tickets are on sale now. Secure your seats for any of UC Davis’ six home games today. Mini Plans offer a great way to save by bundling multiple games. Choose from two different options

and select the games that fit your schedule.

Both Mini Plan options include the Montana game and allow fans to add one or two additional home games at a discounted rate compared to purchasing single-game tickets. All Mini Plan seats are

located in Sections 119 or 125 on the west side of UC Davis Health Stadium.

Season tickets start at just \$100 for new alumni (2017–26 UC Davis graduates) and \$140 for the general public. Season ticket holders also receive a variety of exclusive benefits, including priority access to postseason tickets, select away games and parking.

Additional benefits include a dedicated Aggie Ticket Representative, flexible payment plan options and invitations to exclusive season ticket holder events. Purchase your season tickets today. For more information, email the Aggie Ticket Office at aggietickets@ucdavis.edu or call 530-752-2471.

Group ticket discounts begin with just 10 tickets and provide the perfect opportunity for company outings, family gatherings, birthday celebrations and more.

Create a memorable birthday experience with a player high-five tunnel or reserve a turnkey tailgate space for your group before kickoff. Call the Aggie Ticket Office at 530-752-2471 to customize an unforgettable game-day experience.

For more information about purchasing tailgating or parking for the 2026 season, contact Jordan Kurtz at 530-304-1433 or jkurtz@ucdavis.edu.

Applications Open for Republic FC and Wilton Rancheria Indigenous Future Leaders Scholarship

Republic FC Sports News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On July 13, Republic FC announced its second-annual Indigenous Future Leaders Scholarship, in partnership with Wilton Rancheria, for a local student. Applications are now open and must be submitted by July 31 at 11:59 p.m. Students can find more information and apply at SacRepublicFC.com/Scholarship.

Republic FC Rising Scholars powered by the PG&E Corporation Foundation offers multiple scholarships throughout the year to support students from underrepresented communities as they continue their academic journeys.

“We believe that every student deserves the opportunity to pursue their dreams while staying connected to the communities that shape who they are,” said Republic FC Vice President of Business Operations and Community Investment Scott Moak. “We’re proud to continue to recognize and invest in Native American students whose



Applications are now open and must be submitted by July 31 at 11:59 p.m. Photo courtesy of Republic FC

leadership will help strengthen our region for generations to come.”

Applicants are required to be residents of the six-county Sacramento region and of Native American heritage. In addition, they must be a high school senior who will pursue higher level education at a

four-year college/university or California community college or are currently enrolled at a California community college or university with a minimum of six units. A committee of Republic FC representatives and Native American leaders, including last year’s scholarship recipient,

will review applications and select a winner.

“Wilton Rancheria is proud to invest in our youth and create opportunities for future generations to thrive. This scholarship reflects our commitment to continuing that legacy,” said Wilton Rancheria Chairman Jesus Tarango. “Together with Republic FC, we are investing in the next generation of students who will carry their communities forward with pride and use their education to make a lasting impact.”

The winner will be recognized on Aug. 15 at Heart Health Park during Republic FC’s Native American Heritage Night and will receive the \$2,000 prize as well as a VIP experience and presentation of the scholarship during halftime.

The match will also feature an exclusive scarf giveaway at entry, a Makers Market with works from Native American artists, special food options, on-field recognitions and more. Kickoff is slated for 8 p.m. and tickets are available now at SacRepublicFC.com.

Climate Resilience Plan for the American, Bear and Cosumnes Watersheds

New analysis outlines growing risks from drought, flooding, wildfire and extreme heat — and provides a framework to guide regional action

Regional Water Authority News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Regional Water Authority (RWA) and regional partners have completed the American, Bear and Cosumnes Watersheds Resilience Plan, a new climate resilience strategy that evaluates how climate change is expected to affect water supplies, flood risk, ecosystems, infrastructure and communities across one of California’s most important watershed systems.

Funded by the California Department of Water Resources through the State’s Watershed Resilience Pilot Program, the Sacramento region was selected as one of five pilot regions statewide to help develop watershed-scale climate resilience planning approaches that could inform future implementation efforts across California.

The plan examines the interconnected American, Bear and Cosumnes river watersheds, which support more than two million people, provide approximately eight percent of California’s developed water supply and contribute important flows to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The plan combines climate modeling, vulnerability analysis, equity assessment and stakeholder engagement to evaluate how climate change could reshape the region over the coming decades and identify actions that can help communities and ecosystems adapt.

Key findings for the Sacramento region

Critical snowpack that feeds these watersheds could decline by approximately 60% by mid-century.

Snowmelt is projected to occur two to four weeks earlier.

Extreme heat days over 95 degrees could increase by roughly

20 days annually.

Wildfires are projected to become 17% more frequent.

Extreme precipitation events could become 15% more intense.

Peak flood flows could increase by approximately 19%.

The plan also finds that climate impacts will not be experienced equally. Lower-income communities, Tribal communities and outdoor workers may face greater exposure to extreme heat, flooding, wildfire smoke and economic disruption.

“The science is clear that climate change is already reshaping our watersheds,” said Jim Peifer, executive director of the Regional Water Authority. “The question is no longer whether these impacts are coming, but how quickly the region can act to prepare. This plan gives the Sacramento region a shared framework to move from vulnerability assessment to implementation — and positions regional partners to move quickly as funding and project opportunities emerge.”

In addition to identifying climate vulnerabilities, the plan outlines 19 watershed adaptation strategies and 119 potential adaptation actions focused on reducing long-term risks associated with drought, flooding, wildfire and extreme heat.

The plan also establishes a decision-making framework intended to help agencies and partners evaluate and prioritize future resilience investments based on factors such as regional benefit, climate risk reduction, ecosystem improvements, equity considerations and implementation readiness.

Strategies identified in the plan include reducing wildfire risk and improving forest health in the Sierra headwaters, strengthening flood protection for vulnerable communities, expanding groundwater recharge, protecting cold-water

habitat for salmon and other native fish species, expanding flood forecasting and early warning systems, and advancing regional projects that provide multiple water supply, ecosystem and community resilience benefits.

“For more than two decades, DWR has encouraged Californians to connect across watersheds,” said Karla Nemeth, director of the California Department of Water Resources. “A warmer climate stresses resources from forests to aquifers. That makes the hard work of collaboration more important than ever. DWR’s \$2 million grant to the Regional Water Authority yielded a plan that tells a powerful story about future risks and marks a clear path to resilience. This plan positions the people of the American, Bear, and Cosumnes watersheds to cope with a changed climate. It is an early example of the kind of work needed across the state, and it helps build DWR’s momentum to update the California Water Plan to deliver more precise, localized and action-oriented water supply strategies.”

The planning effort was led by the Regional Water Authority with support from Jacobs, Valley Vision, Khadam Consulting, the Water Forum, regional water agencies, local governments, Tribal representatives, community organizations and Watershed Network participants.

“The region already has many of the partnerships, technical tools and local initiatives needed to strengthen resilience,” Peifer said. “This plan helps align those efforts and creates a clearer path forward for coordinated regional action.”

The full American, Bear, and Cosumnes Watersheds Resilience Plan is available at: <https://rwawatershedsresilience.com/plan/> ★

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↑**Snowpack Melting**
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↑**Rainfall vs Snow**
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↓**Lower American River**
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↑**Groundwater Reliance**
11% increase

↑**Extreme Heat Days**
20 more per year (>100°F)

↑**Wildfires**
17% more frequent

↑**River Temperature**
3-5°F higher in summer

↑**Extreme Precipitation**
15% more intense

↑**Flood Risk**
19% higher
100-year peak flows

Wheelchairs, Medical Equipment for Veterans

By Abbey Wicks

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Veterans of All Wars in West Sacramento have a growing supply of medical equipment including wheelchairs, crutches and walkers available to veterans and their families across the greater Sacramento region.

The nonprofit specializes in getting medical equipment to veterans in need. The club is not affiliated with Veterans of Foreign Wars, according to Carl Zagar, treasurer. The group offers services to any veterans, not just those who served in combat.

Their stock of medical

equipment is piling up in their West Sacramento storage facility, Zagar said. The club’s current supply also includes a limited number of electric carts.

Interested individuals can contact Carl Zagar at zegarcarl@gmail.com and indicate what type of equipment they are interested in. Equipment can be picked up from the group’s West Sacramento location; deliveries are possible if necessary.

Donations of medical equipment are accepted year-round. Monetary donations to the Veterans of All Wars can be mailed to PO Box 53, West Sacramento, CA 95691. ★



Veterans of All Wars have a growing supply of medical equipment available for veterans in the greater Sacramento region. Photo courtesy of Carl Zagar

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BY JOSH F.W. COOK

★ CALIFORNIA ★ POLICY AND ETHICS

Making the Gut Punch of Inflation Personalized Just for You

By Josh Cook

Californians have suffered through a troubling period of rising consumer costs, commonly referred to as inflation. Over the past three years—June 2023 to June 2026—consumer prices have risen about 9.5% cumulatively.

If you are eager to blame bad government monetary policies, you might want to check in on the latest exploits of AI and big Tech companies. The pricing technology and market power of large retailers increasingly outmatch shoppers. Two recent developments show how these tools can drive up the cost of everyday goods.

Maryland is set to become the first state to ban dynamic pricing in grocery stores. The Protection from Predatory Pricing Act, championed by Governor Wes Moore, targets the practice of adjusting prices in real time based on demand, time of day, or personal data gathered through loyalty apps and electronic shelf labels. Once signed, the law will require prices to stay fixed for at least one business day.

Questions remain, however, about loopholes and enforcement.

In California, the Attorney General's office has released unredacted evidence in the

state's 2022 antitrust suit against Amazon. California alleges the company illegally fixed prices by pressuring vendors and major competitors—including Target, Walmart, Chewy, Best Buy, and Home Depot—to raise prices or pull discounted products from rival platforms, protecting Amazon's margins at consumers' expense.

The report called the conduct "strong-arm tactics" that stifle fair pricing amid broader affordability struggles. A preliminary injunction hearing is set for July, with trial scheduled for January 2027.

Together, these cases point to a troubling pattern: new technology and market dominance allow retailers to manipulate prices quietly, and consumers foot the bill. Two people look at the same thing but get two different prices.

Assemblymember Chris Ward (D-San Diego) introduced AB 2564 on February 20, 2026, targeting "surveillance pricing"—the use of consumers' personal data (age, gender, location, browsing history, etc.) to charge individualized prices. Ward's efforts and Maryland's ban and California's lawsuit are real progress. Still, they underscore how much sustained consumer protection oversight it will take to keep "new" innovations working for the public rather than against it. ★

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your local area

Arrest Logs
updated daily

AMERICANRIVERMESSENGER.COM



International MARKET

FOOD COURT NOW OPEN
Come Enjoy the Flavors of the World!

22 23 24 25 26 27 28
10971 Olson Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
916.853.8000

Market: 7 Days 9am - 9pm
Food Court: 7 Days 11am - 1:30pm
Korean/Mex/Viet: 7:30pm (last call)
Chinese/Japanese 7:00pm (last call)

KP KARAOKE SPECIAL

Sun-Thu Come before 6pm (Valid Time)
Fri-Sat Come before 5pm (Valid Time)

For 6 people \$115.00 + Gratuity
3 Hours Karaoke + Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 2 Main Dishes (Dishes To Choose From Below)

For 12 people \$210.00 + Gratuity
3 Hours Karaoke + 2 Pizzas + Pitcher Soda + 4 Main Dishes (Dishes To Choose From Below)

For 14 people \$230.00 + Gratuity
3 Hours Karaoke + 2 Pizzas + Pitcher Soda + 4 Main Dishes (Dishes To Choose From Below)

For 18 people \$295.00 + Gratuity
3 Hours Karaoke + 3 Pizzas + Pitcher Soda + 6 Main Dishes (Dishes To Choose From Below)

For 28 people \$395.00 + Gratuity
3 Hours Karaoke + 3 Pizzas + Pitcher Soda + 6 Main Dishes (Dishes To Choose From Below)

Dishes To Choose From

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Salted Cutlass fish 283 g
REG. \$9.99/EA
\$5.99/ea

Tteokbokki w/ Mozzarella Cheese 320 g
REG. \$7.99/EA
\$2.99/ea

WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

Beef Cross Rib/Shoulder Roast Boneless **\$5.79/lb**

Beef New York Roast Boneless **\$6.99/lb**

Chicken Breast Bnls/Sknls **\$1.79/lb**

Pork Loin Roast Boneless **\$2.29/lb**

Pork Loin Chop Boneless **\$2.49/lb**

Pork St. Louis Ribs **\$3.99/lb**

WEEKLY HALAL SPECIALS

Chicken Breast Bnls/Sknls **\$1.99/lb**

New Zealand/Australian Lamb Stew Meat-Bone In **\$5.99/lb**

Beef Cross Rib/Shoulder Roast Boneless **\$5.99/lb**

FRESH PRODUCE

Mini Sweet Pepper 1 lb **\$3.69/lb**

White Nectarine **\$1.19/lb**

Italian Squash **99¢/lb**

Russet Potato 10 lb Bag **\$1.99/bag**

Lime **8/\$1.00**

Celery **89¢/ea**

Carrot 5 lb Bag **\$3.49/bag**

Assorted Mushroom 400 g **\$2.49/pk**

AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

The Daily Crave Lentil Chips & Quinoa Chips 4.25 oz **\$2.99/ea**

Grey Poupon Dijon Mustard 8 oz **\$2.99/ea**

Kingsford Match Light Charcoal 12 lb **\$14.99/ea**

Act II Popcorn Butter 8.25 oz **\$2.49/ea**

Tree Top 100% Apple Juice 64 oz **\$2.99/ea**

ASIAN GROCERY

Three Ladies Vietnamese Rice Vermicelli 2 lb **\$5.49/ea**

Argentina Corned Beef 12 oz **\$6.99/ea**

Lee Kum Kee Mushroom Bouillon Powder 35 oz **\$11.99/ea**

Cu'u Long Vietnamese Rice Paper 12 oz **\$1.99/ea**

Savoy Coconut Cream 13.5 oz **\$2.99/ea**

EUROPEAN GROCERY

Pellegrino Dill Pickles 3 kinds 57.4 oz **\$2.99/ea**

Al Amira Super Melon Seeds 350 gr **\$4.69/ea**

Pomegranate Molasses 300 ml **\$2.99/ea**

Sadaf Turmeric Powder 11 oz **\$5.99/ea**

Raffaello Ferrero 150 gr **\$6.99/ea**

EUROPEAN DELI

Alex's Meat Mortadella Bologna **\$6.69/lb**

Columbus Roast Beef **\$13.19/lb**

Stuffed Queen Olives **\$6.09/lb**

Pepper Prosciutto Provolone **\$8.29/lb**

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Tteokbokki w/ Corn Cheese 320 gr **\$2.99/ea**

HOUSEWARE

Electric Rice Cooker **\$5.49**

Electric Rice Cooker **\$5.99**

Electric Rice Cooker **\$8.99**

Electric Rice Cooker **\$39.99**

Advised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE JULY 22 - JULY 28, 2026.

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